Mr. Les Whitten
1401 16 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

5/5/77

Dear Les,

Because two heads are better than one and because mine can't hold as much as it did I have been in touch with a close friend about the Hoover to Rowley memo.

His careful analysis is that Sprague's televised and print-press reported account is not justified by the precise language. The language Hoover used does not state that the agents had access to a tape after the assassination. It also does not state that they decided the Mexico City person was not Oswald on the basis of the tape recording of the voice. This could have been, from Hoover's language, from the pictures.

He has also checked further on the Hoover reference to the activity of FBI agents in the Oswald arrest.

Agent Robert Barrett had showed up at the scene of the killing of Officer J.D. Tippit. He was with a Dallas officer named Westbrook, I think rank of a captain. He then drove to the theater with Westbrook, which has to mean after the police broadcast. Thus the FBI could not have had anything to do with the apprehension of Oswald. That it had an agent present when the cops arrested him seems to be the maximum basis for Hoover's language.

If you want more let me know. My friend is Howard Roffman, temporarily in Gainesville, Fla., until he takes the state bar exam. After that he will be in Jacksonville most of the time, in New Orleans when the federal appeals court is in session there. Howard is becoming clerk to one of the appeals judges.

While there are a couple of people who have done respectable research into the JFK case, of these there is only one whose judgement on meaning, particularly where there are political questions, I can recommend. He is Howard. Some of the most painstaking at researchg go into zany things. Some allow political concepts to shape their opinions and interpretations. I cannot speak to highly of Howard. And he is the youngest of the researchers, now 25. I regret very much the distance that separates us.

I have a file on Oswald in Mexico but I believe I have given all of it to Bud so if you have any interest he is closer to you than I. I mean copies to Bud. You are welcome to access to my file, too.

Best,